

## **News from Ed Markey**

**United States Congress**

**Massachusetts Seventh District**

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**CONTACT: Michal Freedhoff or Israel Klein**  
**(202) 225-2836**

### **MARKEY QUESTIONS 'TEMPORARY' NUCLEAR SECURITY MEASURES**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. --**

Today Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA) released the following statement in response to reports that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will issue orders requiring enhanced security measures at civilian nuclear facilities.

"Today, more than 5 months after September 11, the NRC finally decided to order new interim security measures at nuclear reactors, after spending the last 5 months merely suggesting that such measures be taken. However, the NRC press release clearly states that these measures have been taken only because 'the generalized high-level threat environment has persisted longer than expected.' It seems that while the President is exhorting the public to accept that the terror threat may last years, the NRC is acting surprised that it has lasted so long," said Rep. Markey. "Moreover, I am also outraged that these measures that are so central to homeland security appear to be temporary, and not the permanent rulemaking the security threat demands."

Rep. Markey continued, "The NRC is still operating in a pre-September 11 world. While the NRC and the nuclear power industry have been saying 'It can't happen here,' we know all too well that the terrorists of Al Qaeda have contemplated and would carry out an attack on a nuclear facility. President Bush disclosed in his State of the Union Speech that diagrams of nuclear power plants were discovered in al Qaeda hideouts in Afghanistan, and members of Al Qaeda have said that U.S. nuclear facilities are an attractive terrorist target."

"The reality is that current regulations and these new interim measures ignores many of the risks that the NRC decided prior to September 11th were just UNTHINKABLE. This complacency breeds neglect, and neglect breeds disaster. The NRC must take immediate and permanent steps to revise the regulations to reflect the true nature of the terrorist threat we now face. The measures announced today are too little, too late and too temporary."

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